



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I 03060025

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On June 23, 2003, information was received in the OIG Office indicating that an NSF Employee¹ had sent an E-mail from her NSF Outlook Program to numerous other NSF employees identifying a family member as a source of [REDACTED] products and advising them of an ongoing contest. The primary concern was that the employee might have been utilizing NSF resources to promote a personal business in violation of NSF Bulletin 98-13.

The subsequent investigation identified that the E-mail did not offer any items for sale or request any response from the recipients and was only advising them of a source for the products and a chance to register to win some money. There were no indications that the subject was attempting to sell or otherwise conduct a personal business through the E-mail and she did not receive any type of financial gain from the notification. Further review of the subject's E-mail folders failed to identify any similar or otherwise inappropriate E-mails sent or maintained by this employee.

It was noted however that the current policies regarding permitted uses of the E-mail program are vague and difficult to locate. These issues have been previously identified and were the subject of several other investigations and resulted in a recommendation being forwarded to NSF to clarify the agency's current policies addressing the personal use of NSF Technology and Communication Resources.

Accordingly, this case is closed.

¹ [REDACTED]